

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE SARL NEWS SUNDAY 8, AUGUST 1999

This is Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL transmitting Amateur Radio News , a service from the South African Radio League for the interest of all Radio Amateurs, Short-wave Listeners and Electronic Enthusiasts. For a complete list of broadcast times and frequencies please send a SASE to Amateur Radio News, SARL, P O Box 1721 Strubensvallei 1735. This bulletin is also available on the SARL's web pages hosted by Intekom at www.sarl.org.za.

NEWS HEADLINES:

- HAMNET TO BE PUT ON FULL ALERT AT THE CHANGE OF THE CENTURY
- LIGHTHOUSES TO "LIGHT-UP" THE BANDS ON AUGUST 21 and 22
- GOLDWATER HAM STATION TO BECOME MUSEUM EXHIBIT
- HAMS, SWL'S INVITED TO MONITOR PROPAGATION DURING ECLIPSE

You are tuned to ZS6SRL, the news in detail next.

HAMNET TO BE PUT ON FULL ALERT AT THE CHANGE OF THE CENTURY

Hamnet has been placed on full alert over the period December 31 - January 1 to cope with any possible problems that may occur as a result of the Y2K. More details will be announced shortly.

LIGHTHOUSES TO "LIGHT-UP" THE BANDS ON AUGUST 21 and 22

The annual International Lighthouse/Lightship Activity Weekend will be held over the weekend of 21/22 August 1999. The following are expected to be on the air:

Cape Point: ZS1FRC False Bay Radio Electronics and Computer Club. Slangkop: ZS1AGH and ZS1RON. Danger Point: ZS1OAR Overberg Amateur Radioklub. Cape Agulhas: ZS150LL Boland Amateur Radioklub. Robben Island: ZS1DUP and ZS1GRM. Green Point: ZS1CT Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre. Dassen Island: ZS1DAS operated by ZS1REC Raoul.

A few more lights may be added. The Durban fraternity manned the Bluff light last year and may do so again. The North Point light in Saldanha Bay may also be activated if an operator or two can be found.

The l'Agullhas lighthouse is celebrating its 50th Anniversary and will be using a special callsign.

HAVE YOU DONATED TO THE SARL BUILDING FUND?

The SARL is in the process of sign writing an honour board to acknowledge all the donors to the building Fund. If you made a donation before 1998, please send an Email or fax to the SARL. The original records were lost in the Duff Road Robbery.

Please send details of the contribution to sarl@intekom.co.za or fax to 011 675-2793. Please send the information before 21 August 1999. If you do not send the information, your name may not appear one on the board. The SARL very much would like your name to appear but is dependent on you to provide the information.

GOLDWATER HAM STATION TO BECOME MUSEUM EXHIBIT

The well-known ham station of the late Sen Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, is being donated to the Arizona Historical Society for display as a museum exhibit. The Society plans to set up the massive station console and equipment "as the late Senator used it," said Reba Wells Grandrud, director of the Society's Central Arizona Division.

Grandrud said that current plans call for the K7UGA station equipment and console to be moved from the Goldwater home in Paradise Valley, Arizona, and reassembled at the Society's museum in Papago Park in Tempe sometime during the next year. Details are still being worked out. "We're just delighted," Grandrud said. "We felt it was very appropriate to have this here."

Goldwater's station and massive antenna system were used to complete thousands of phone patch messages for troops during the Vietnam War. The antennas have been dismantled and sold, and will not be a part of the museum exhibit.

The museum intends to display the station intact and hopes to recreate the look and feel of the original Goldwater ham shack through the use of digital photographic techniques. "Our plan is probably to recreate a room just as he had it," including all of Goldwater's photographs and other memorabilia, Grandrud said. While it's unlikely the station itself would be operational, she said the museum might "simulate" an operating setup for the sake of visitors.

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY TO CELEBRATE SUCCESS IN AMATEUR DIGITAL COMMUNICATION

The Administrative Council of the IARU has voted unanimously to dedicate this years' World Amateur Radio Day on September 18 to "Celebrating Success in Amateur Digital Communication.". World Amateur Radio Day will be celebrated for the last time on the third week of September this year. From 2000 the day will shift to the founding day of the IARU and will be celebrated every year on April 18

World Amateur Radio Day offers clubs huge public relations opportunities for Amateur Radio at a time when it is most needed. Please submit some of your ideas to SARLNEWS@ Intekom.co.za for the SARL Council to consider at their

next meeting on August 7. Call the SARL comment line between now and 5 August on 088 100 3400 with your ideas and receive a free Y2K Telkom phone card.

HAMS, SWLS INVITED TO MONITOR PROPAGATION DURING ECLIPSE

NASA is inviting Amateur Radio operators and short-wave listeners to monitor radio propagation during the total solar eclipse August 11 and to report their findings. As hams and SWL's know, many short-wave radio stations that are undetectable during daylight hours easy to pick up at night. Scientists expect night-time conditions to be manifested as the eclipse crosses Earth's surface next Wednesday—creating an “audio eclipse.”

The August 11 eclipse will be the last total solar eclipse of the 20th century. The trajectory of the moon's shadow will carry it across central Europe, Turkey, the Middle East, Pakistan and India.

As the path of totality slices through Earth's atmosphere, ions and electrons in the vicinity of the shadow will begin to recombine. The reflecting F layer may not be greatly affected, but ionisation in the attenuating D layer could vanish. Short-wave radio stations that were restricted in range to sites in Europe just moments earlier may be able to skip over the horizon and be heard on the other side of the Atlantic.

NASA says that since England and Middle Europe offer unpredictable visual conditions, the “audio eclipse” may prove the most reliable observation, particularly when heard from thousands of miles away.

The eclipse will begin over Europe around 1010 UTC when it is still dark over most of North America. Thus, when the daytime ionosphere begins to diminish over Europe, there is a good chance that European short-wave broadcast stations will be able to propagate great distances into the Western Hemisphere. NASA suggests experimenting with different stations at frequencies between 5 and 15 MHz that are favourable for probing changes in the D layer. The best ones for eclipse listening will be transmitters that can be heard at night, but not at all during the day.

In South Africa we should focus on station broadcasting from the East.

NASA requests that participating listeners report the time, station frequency and signal strength as displayed on the receiver's S meter at night and during the local time of the eclipse for a week centred on August 11. Send logs, any audio recordings, and your position (latitude and longitude) to Marshall Space Flight Centre's Eclipse mailbox, eclipse@msfc.nasa.gov. The data will be analysed to help determine ionospheric properties.

NEW COMMITTEE

The Border Radio Club has elected the following members to their committee to take the club into the next millennium:

Chairman: Richard Seddon ZR2CLI Vice Chairman and Treasurer: Colin Robertson ZS2CR Secretary: Val Wood ZR2VW Committee Members: Brian Prior ZR2AC, Chris Hundlingh ZS2CH, Ivan Newman

ZR2LN, Ken Wood ZS2ACB, Neil Holmes ZS2AI, Ralph Hall ZS2IV and Reg Koekoemoer ZR2REG

The Midland Amateur Radio Club have elected the following members to their committee:

Chairman : Bill Norval (ZS5KD) Vice-Chairman: Dick Andrews (ZS5FB) Secretary : Robin Seal (ZS5MRS) Treasurer : Charles Carr (ZS5QR) Members : Louis Friedemann ZS5LF, Brian Lourens ZR5BCB, Richard Bleeker ZR5RJB, Gail Archer, and Errol Wilson ZR5EGW .

DIARY OF ACTIVITY

The SARL HF CW contest will be held today, August 29 from 15:00 - 18:00. Full details are available on the SARLweb at www.sarl.org.za

On the 12th of August, Hans Potgieter ZS6ALJ, president of the SARL, will address the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club on the occasion of their 70th AGM. We are all aware that this is not actually the 70th AGM of the PARC but in reality they only had a name change and are still the same organisation with a long and proud history. Books from the SARL Bookshop will be on sale.

From 13 to 14 August 1999 the East Rand Amateur Radio Club will be hosting a special event station on HF and VHF at the John Vorster Stadium in Nigel. On August 14 there will be a boot sale from 10:00 - 12:00. There is no charge for the bootsale, but visitors will have to pay entrance into the stadium.

The Garden Route Radio Club will be holding its AGM on 21 August at the Mosgas Information Centre in Mosselbaai. Activity will start at 12:00. The events include a bring and braai and a fleamarket. For more information contact Chris Meyer ZS1M.

SA AMSAT will be holding its next meeting at the National Amateur Radio Centre on Wednesday 25 August at 18:00.

The West Rand Amateur Radio Club will be holding a boot Sale at their club House, Kroton Road, Roodepoort on Saturday 28 August from 08:00. For details contact Bill van Zyl during office hours on 011 726-6807

Radio Clubs are invited to supply information for inclusion in the Diary of events. Information must reach the SARL News Service by not later than two weeks before the event. Information may be faxed to 031 765-6456 or by Email to: sarlnews@intekom.co.za. Please note the correct Email address.

The South African Radio League provides this bulletin of news as a service to Radio Amateurs and interested listeners on the African Continent. Join us on

Sundays at 12:00 for the President's Net on 7082 kHz. This bulletin was written by ZS5AKV and read by ..

News in this bulletin was provided by the SARL News Service, Amateur Radio Clubs in South Africa, Amateur Radio Online and the ARRL .

Every Sunday you are invited to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International. The programme is on the air on Sundays at 10:00 SAST on 9750 and 21530 kHz and repeated on Mondays at 20:00 SAST on 3215 kHz. Sentechn, the common carrier for broadcasting signals in South Africa and Telkom who provides the transmission lines, sponsor these transmissions. The following VHF frequencies are also activated from the Sentechn Meyerton Transmitter site: 145,375 for the Northern Free State and Vaal triangle areas and 145,400 covering the greater Johannesburg area. In the greater Durban area there is a relay on 145,650 MHz.

ends - ZS5AKV. /EX